

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

FRB-03 OMB-01 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /073 W

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P 102325Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7148

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, MX

SUBJ: TEXTILES - DRAFT NOTE

REF: STATE 61924; MEXICO 2869; MEXICO 2376

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

1. SECRETARIAT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE OFFICIALS RETURNED FROM INVESTIGATORY TRIP DURING WHICH THEY MET IN CIUDAD JUAREZ WITH AMERICAN IN-BOND APPAREL MANUFACTURER FROM ALONG ENTIRE BORDER. IN THEIR REPORT TO UNDER SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY GUILLERMO BECKER THEY INDICATED "NEAR PANIC" BY MANUFACTURERS OVER CONSULTATION LEVELS FOR SYNTHETIC FIBER CATEGORIES IN GROUP III CONTAINED DRAFT NOTE. MANUFACTURERS ARGUE THAT THEY ALREADY HAVE FIRM ORDERS THAT EXCEED CONSULTATION LEVELS AND MAJOR EXPANSION PLANS UNDER WAY. THOSE EXPRESSING GREATEST CONCERN ARE LARGE 100-PERCENT U.S.-OWNED FIRMS. SMALLER MANUFACTURERS, USUALLY SUB-CONTRACTORS AND MEXICAN CAPITAL, ON OTHER HAND, ARE LOSING ORDERS DUE TO U.S. RECESSION AND SOME HAVE ACTUALLY

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GONE OUT OF BUSINESS.

2. POWERFUL GROUP OF U.S., 807 MANUFACTURERS ARE WELL ORGANIZED AND ARE USING EVERY MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO UNDERMINE NEW ALL-FIBER BILATERAL AGREEMENT. THEY HAVE SENT TELEGRAM TO PRES. ECHEVERRIA AND USING CONTACTS IN SECRETARIAT OF THE PRESIDENCY. AS RESULT OF THIS GROWING POLITICAL PRESSURE, BECKER HAS AGREED TO MEET WITH DELEGATION OF AMERICAN 807 MANUFACTURERS NEXT WEEK AND SUBSEQUENTLY UNDERTAKE FULL REVIEW OF PROBLEM.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS, GOM INFORMED EMBASSY THAT IT IS INSTRUCTING ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO FORMALLY REQUEST A TWO-MONTH GRACE PERIOD BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER IT WILL GIVE ITS CONCURRENCE TO DRAFT NOTE SUBMITTED BY USG. EMBASSY HAS INDICATED CONCERN OVER DELAY AND REMINDED MEXICANS OF MAY 1 DEADLINE UNDER MFA. MOREOVER, EMBASSY REMINDED GOM THAT DOMESTIC TEXTILE AND APPAREL MANUFACTURERS ARE NOT PRESENTING ANY OBSTACLES AND THAT NEGATIVE PRESSURES ARE COMING FROM NON-MEXICAN SOURCE.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FROM DEPT. ON WHAT STEPS IF ANY IT SHOULD TAKE NEXT AND SUGGESTED ARGUMENTS TO BE USED WITH GOM IN ORDER ACCELERATE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT PROCESS.

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